



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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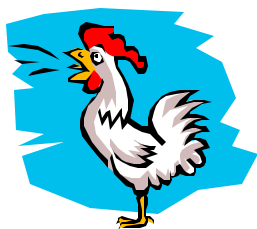
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Poultry Programs

Market News Branch



NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Majority prices were trending unchanged in the West, unchanged to higher elsewhere. Trade sentiment was steady to firm. Demand entering the holiday weekend was at least moderate with good product clearances reported. Supplies were irregular with smaller weights in the shortest position and heavy weights at times ample. Processing schedules for Memorial Day were mixed with numerous closures noted. In the parts structure, breast items were least available and clearing well. All other parts were generally adequate and moving. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at weights in a full range, but mostly desirable

Preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 05/29-06/03/00 (cents per lb)

AREAS	US GRADE A (Including branded product)		COMPOSITE	
	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				

Chicago	45.00-49.00	44.00-60.75	48.71	24
Los Angeles	63.00			
New York	54.00-56.00			

Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent

Mississippi	57.00-59.00	46.00-61.00	57.94	86
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GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 58.25 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
606	54.61-60.50	58.06

Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:

ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
BREASTS - B/S	154.00	3,210
BREASTS - WHOLE	78.50	1,750
THIGH MEAT - B/S	94.00	593
LEG QUARTERS	20.00	7,250
WINGS	51.00	2,350

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

SOUTHERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady, instances firm. Demand continued in a good position entering the extended holiday weekend. Supplies were close balanced to short with reports of premium prices being paid for needed product. Processing schedules for Memorial Day are mixed with some plants running tomorrow or next Saturday. In the parts structure, availability of breast items was mostly tight to sufficient with strong movement. All other items were usually well balanced with fair to moderate demand. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were desirable to at times heavy, but mostly desirable.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices unchanged from last week. Trading reported on WOGs priced unchanged to higher for next week's deliveries. Offerings in fair balance. Retail demand moderate for whole body and fairly good for parts. Dealers anticipated satisfactory weekend clearances. Reported trading on parts for next week's delivery into California: leg quarters bulk mainly 20.5-21, bone-in breasts 83-89, boneless breasts 150-160 and wings 49-60.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trade sentiment on whole broiler/fryers steady to fully steady. Preliminary majority prices for next week's deliveries into Chicago were 3 cents higher from last Monday's final. Offerings of wogs adequate to short, whole birds limited for mostly light buyer interest. Retail demand fair at best to fairly good with many distributors reporting good clean-up going into the holiday weekend. Food service movement irregular, light to fairly good with most areas reporting heavier than normal orders due to long weekend. Floor stocks adequate to ample, sizes irregular. Parts trading moderate to active on leg quarters and whole breasts, slow to moderate on boneless/skinless breasts, balance of items slow. Supplies remained short on bone-in breasts and closely balanced to fully adequate on remainder of items. Trade sentiment fully steady on breast items and leg quarters and steady on all other items.

NORTHEAST REGION BROILER/FRYER Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers remained good as the holiday weekend approached. Offerings were mixed with 3 pound sizes usually short and larger sizes occasionally long. Movement into retail and distributive channels was good as planned Memorial Day celebrations boosted demand. The market tone continued steady to fully steady. In the parts market, offerings ranged tight to adequate and breast items were most scarce.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was good entering the holiday extended weekend. Offerings varied in both volume and size available. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights were irregular in a full range of light to heavy. Processing schedules were very heavy when combined with operations planned for Saturday. All reporting plants on Delmarva were scheduled to close on Monday, Memorial Day. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 56 to 68 cents. Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. In the parts complex, breast items and most leg cuts were clearing very well and sentiment was firm on all but thighs and wings.

***BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.**

		<u>BRANDED U.S. GRADE A</u>
RANGE		55-69
WEIGHTED AVERAGE		59.62
NO. OF BOXES		9,245
CUMULATIVE	05/22/00-05/26/00	59.33
	05/24/99-05/28/99	59.61
NO. OF BOXES	05/22/00-05/26/00	48,744
	05/24/99-05/28/99	32,706

*6 of 8 plants reporting.

MAY 25, 2000

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MAY 26, 2000

ITEM	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD AVG	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD AVG	WEEKLY	
	(000)	RANGE			(000)	RANGE			(000)	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	1,071	135.00-178.00	145-150	146.72	601	135.00-178.00	145-150	156.07	3,326	146.48
TENDERLOINS	178	150.00-210.00	-	158.43	155	148.00-210.00	-	184.00	950	165.51
BREAST - LINE RUN	130	71.00-74.00	71-72	73.77	144	74.00-79.00	74-75	78.51	564	75.54
FRONT HALVES	105	50.00-55.00	-	52.50	36	53.00-55.00	-	53.06	341	51.17
LEGS	86	27.00-34.00	-	27.49	87	27.00-35.00	27-29	27.64	353	27.68
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	791	17.00-19.00	17-18	17.69	766	17.00-19.50	17-18	17.70	3,758	17.28
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	892	19.00-21.00	20-21	20.07	1,061	19.00-22.00	20-21	20.09	5,665	19.86
WINGS (WHOLE)	106	41.00-52.00	42-45	45.36	101	41.00-52.00	42-45	46.10	712	48.15
WINGS (CUT)	420	52.00-72.00	54-56	55.62	455	56.00-72.00	56	59.52	2,056	56.48
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				404	25.81
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				65	32.14
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				91	74.96

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS

TRADING FOR MAY 25, 2000 F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S**RANGE****AVERAGE**

33.50 - 37.00

35.10

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS

TRADING FOR MAY 26, 2000 F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S**RANGE****AVERAGE**

35.00 - 37.25

35.38

5-DAY**AVERAGE**

34.84

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS Trucklot buying activity remained busy as the holiday weekend approached. Offerings were short to adequate with breast items holding the least available position. Most plants altered processing schedules to accommodate the holiday.

Movement into retail and distributive channels was good. The market tone was fully steady to firm.

PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES.

ITEM	MAY 25, 2000			MAY 26, 2000		
	CURRENT NEG	WTD		CURRENT NEG	WTD	WEEKLY
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	TRADING*	AVG**	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	155	158.25	288,000	155-160	157.63	346,720
TENDERLOINS	145-150	149.34	75,560	145-150	150.23	100,040
BREAST - WITH RIBS	74-75	80.43	261,600	76-77	80.69	251,280
BREAST - LINE RUN	74	78.98	226,800	76	79.23	154,800
LEGS	32-33	36.64	198,880	34-35	38.49	154,120
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	23-24	22.74	449,301	24-25	23.12	441,136
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	37.33	124,080	37-38	39.00	125,871
THIGHS	28-29	36.91	97,250	28-29	37.48	94,547
B/S THIGHS	86-87	91.59	48,240	86-87	92.87	51,280
WINGS (WHOLE)	50-51	58.62	257,280	50-51	58.41	278,823
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.95	63,440	10-12	11.98	68,160
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.20	62,800	30-35	34.46	74,360
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	40-45	44.93	92,240	40-45	44.89	109,600

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		ACTUAL WTS	
	05/26	05/25	05/24	05/23	05/24	05/23	05/19	05/17
ALA	3,710	3,993	3,846	3,879	4.95	4.99	3,921	5.03
ARK	5,831	4,997	4,841	5,215	4.88	4.86	5,093	4.83
DELMARVA	2,730	2,432	2,446	2,400	5.05	5.11	3,348	5.04
KY-LA-TN	2,541	2,076	1,966	1,777	4.44	4.46	2,043	4.40
MISS	2,787	2,773	2,776	2,759	5.03	5.05	2,698	5.06
NC	3,084	2,653	2,596	2,611	5.77	6.01	2,921	5.77
TEXAS	2,629	2,309	2,355	2,234	4.84	4.76	2,578	4.76
TOTAL	23,312	21,233	20,826	20,875	5.00	5.01	22,602	4.98
MON-FRI108,286(A)							106,208(A)	

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 26-May & 27-May-00 is estimated to be 34,877,000 up 11.88 percent from a week ago and up 2.8 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,173,000; last year 33,928,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the week ending 27-May-00 is estimated to be 156,357,000 head down 1.6 percent from a week ago, and unchanged percent from a year ago (Last week 158,827,000 Last year 156,997,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RETAILERS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	77-81
ROASTERS 4# & UP	75-90
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	74-79
DUCKS	125
RABBITS-WHOLE	299
RABBITS-CUT UP	309

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	102-104
	ICE PACK	92-96
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	107-111
	DRY PACK	119
HENS OVER 5#	DRY PACK	98
	ICE PACK	95
DUCKS		152-166

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live weight, week ending May 13, 2000 (Preliminary),

(A) Fast food/ (B) Retail (C) Deboning
Food service
4.20 Lbs & down 4.21-5.25 Lbs 5.26 Lbs & Up

	THOUSANDS		
Head	34,657	35,593	42,926
Avg Weight	3.77	4.84	6.08
% of total /1	31%	31%	38%
COMPARISONS			
Last week	33,212	31,626	42,491
Avg Weight	3.76	4.73	6.14
% of total /1	31%	29%	40%
Same week, yr ago /2	33,281	25,903	48,442
Avg Weight	3.84	4.76	6.09
% of total /1	31%	24%	45%
To date/2000	629,216	607,738	775,881
To date/1999	632,618	531,932	830,276

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding.

/2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

WEEK ENDING 20-May-2000 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	THOUSANDS				
HEAD	158,827(A)	1,873	1,584	3,457	436
AVG WT	5.08	3.50	8.24	5.67	6.28
LAST WEEK	157,176	2,024	1,238	3,262	431
YR AGO	155,354	2,329	1,356	3,685	416
AVG WT	5.10	3.52	8.06	5.19	6.76
TO-DATE/2000	3,077,742	40,647	27,531	68,178	8,984
TO-DATE/1999	3,013,524	44,152	26,853	71,005	9,011

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 157.2 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 160.8 million head or 3.6 million head more than or 102 percent of estimated fryers available.

EAST PETERSBURG POULTRY - DATE OF AUCTION: MAY 23, 2000

	RANGE	RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	.90 - 1.04	Geese 9-14 .30 - .48
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	1.00 - 1.10	Pigeons 2.50 - 3.25ea.
Pekin Ducks	.40 - .54	White Pigeons 3.00 - 3.50ea.
Red Fowl 4-4.5	.40 - .64	Rabbits 4-6 1.00 - 1.40
Red Fowl 5-6	.50 - .84	Rabbits 7-11 1.00 - 1.24
Crossbred Fowl 5-9	.50 - .94	Bunnies 2.00 - 5.50ea.
Crossbred Roosters 4-6	.60 - 1.10	Guinea Pigs 1.50 - 6.00ea.
Crossbred Roosters 7-11	.50 - .96	Goats 40.00 - 85.00ea.
Guinea Fowl	.70 - 1.35	Kid Goats 22.00 - 40.00ea.
Banty Roosters	3.50 - 7.50ea.	Doves 4.00 - 6.50ea.
Banty Hens	2.50 - 4.00ea.	Pullets 4-6 .60 - .84
Leghorn Hens	.02 - .10	
Leghorn Roosters	.30 - .44	Total Coops Sold 675
Silkie	3.00 - 3.75ea.	

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY for THE WEEK OF MAY 22, 2000

DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	137	143
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	121-125	122-126
MOSTLY	121-123	122-124
ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED		
	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	57-58	
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	73-83	75-81
SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES		
12 OZ.	60.48-69.66	
14 OZ.	66.96-76.14	
16 OZ.	73.44-83.43	

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices remained unchanged. The market tone was steady. Demand was fair to fairly good. Sizes were mostly desirable. Slaughter schedules were full-time to somewhat heavy due to the holiday. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18 oz boneless breast at \$4.65-5.25, legs at \$2.80-2.95, bone in leg at \$1.15-1.70, gizzards at \$1.30-1.40, wings at \$0.40- 0.60, and leg quarters at \$1.08-1.15.

PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 22-MAY-2000

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	117-119	118
MOSTLY		

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
APRIL	15	156.7	105	5.05
	22	148.3	99	5.05
	29	154.0	100	5.04
MAY	6	158.1	101	5.10
	13	159.1	101	5.06
	20	160.8	102	5.08
YEAR TO DATE	3115.2	3045.3	102	
MAY	27	156.0		
JUNE	3	156.4		

CALIFORNIA PLTRY SLTR UNDER FED. INSP W/E 20-May-00 IN THOUSANDS

Broilers 4,601 HD, 23,925 lbs., Light Hens 225 HD, 772 lbs., Heavy Hens 0 HD, 0 lbs.

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER

	THOUSANDS				
W/E	05/27/00	05/20/00	% CHG	05/29/99	% CHG
Broilers	156,357	*158,827	-02	*156,997	0
Cattle	725	716	+01	*729	-01
Hogs	1,780	1,766	+01	*1,771	+01
Under Federal Inspection					
* ACTUAL					

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL Majority prices were unchanged on lights and unchanged to lower on heavy canners when compared to a week earlier. Demand was unaggressive and light. Offerings were slow to clear and usually reported as available. The undertone was about steady on lights, but weak on heavy canners.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS	HEAVY CANNER HENS
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	(WITHOUT NECKS)
22-26 MAJORITY 24-26	30-33.25 MAJORITY 32-33.25
	CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT
NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED	
LIGHT CANNER HENS	HEAVY CANNER HENS
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	(WITHOUT NECKS)
25-26 MAJORITY	31-34.5 MAJORITY 33.5-34.5

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices were unchanged. Offerings were ample for the light demand. Processing schedules ranged from reduced for the holiday to normal. Finished product was fully adequate at about unchanged price levels. Undertone was generally steady.

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was light to moderate. Offerings were adequate to fully adequate for most trade needs. Schedules were normal to less than normal. Trade sentiment was barely steady.

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices unchanged with a very limited number of producers receiving the top of the market for spent hens. Offerings continue ample for the light to moderate demand. Schedules full-time with reduced schedules planned for next week. Trade sentiment about steady.

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plants worked full schedules. Offerings exceeded available line time.

LIVE HENS

Cents per pound, generally for slaughter the following week.

<u>HEAVY</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR	(1)
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR	(2)
f.o.b. plant	TFEWR	
South Central Heavy	TFEWR	(1)
<u>LIGHT</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>
Eastern Light	0	(1)
Eastern Light	0	(2)
So. Central Light	TFEWR	(2)
No. Central Light	TFEWR	(1)
No. Central Light	0-.5	(2)
(1) Buyer Loading	(2) Producer Loading	0

(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Offerings were fully adequate to ample for the generally light and unaggressive buyer interest. Processing schedules were normal to less than normal for the holiday schedules. Canners were usually available. The market tone was barely steady to weak.

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was light to moderate. Offerings were adequate to fully adequate for most trade needs. Schedules were normal to less than normal. Trade sentiment was barely steady.

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